THE

HORTICULTURIST.

VOL. XIX.....MAY, 1864.....NO. CCXV.

Growing Plants in Rooms.—III.

We have now treated briefly of two of the causes chiefly concerned in the want of success in growing plants in rooms, viz., unsuitable conditions and improper selection of plants; and we trust that we have thrown some light on the subject. In our first article we alluded to one other cause, *the want of knowledge*, about which we propose to offer a few remarks. Want of knowledge, in fact, may be said to cover the whole ground; still, no amount of knowledge will command success in the absence of the first two conditions; for Nature, in respect of her laws, is an arbitrary mistress. We do not propose, in the present article, to supply this knowledge, the want of which is so keenly felt by many, but rather to point out in what it consists, and how and where it may be obtained. We shall from time to time, however, give an article on the subject, and endeavor to make it plain to the understanding of all.

We may say, in the first place, and in a general way, that there exists, among those who desire to grow plants in rooms, no small degree of ignorance of the nature and wants of plants, and any great measure of success in their culture, under such circumstances, can not reasonably be expected. We do not expect a man to develop the best qualities of the horse without some considerable knowledge of his nature and wants; we do not expect a mechanic to become a skilled workman without a knowledge of the materials used in his profession; we do not expect a man to excel in the art of painting without a knowledge of the laws of color, perspective, &c.; and so of all the sciences and arts. Why, then, should we expect any one to grow plants in perfection without some knowledge of their nature and wants? It is true that some persons, by dint of long practice, will learn how much heat, light, and water is needed to sustain some of the simplest and hardiest forms of vegetable life; but this is very different from that knowledge which comprehends the *laws* of vegetable life, and their application to its multifarious manifestations; and the difference between these two degrees of knowledge is not greater than the different degrees of pleasure which each affords. There are others who *admire* flowers, but will not take the trouble to learn how to

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by Mead & Woodward, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Southern District of New York.

grow them, and consequently never know how to *love* them. Such persons have little conception of the amount and degree of pleasure of which they thus deprive themselves. As between a simple *admiration* and a true *love* of flowers, there is all the difference that there is between mere animal appetite and a profound intellectual feast. There is nothing that gives so much vigor and elasticity to the mind as the love and study of nature, and there is nothing that yields a purer and more lasting pleasure; when it includes, as it naturally should, a reverent love of the Father, there is nothing that erects such a firm barrier between the heart and the cankering ills of the world without. A true lover of plants is a lover of his fellow-man and of good works.

But let us be a little more specific, and see what is wanted by those we are more directly addressing. A scientific knowledge of Botany is desirable, as it greatly enhances our love, and makes us so familiar with the constitution of vegetable life, that we are enabled, almost at a glance, to determine the wants of a particular plant; but such a knowledge of Botany is not indispensable to the culture of plants. It is indispensable, however, that the nature of any particular class of plants grown should be studied practically, so as to become familiar with their wants in reference to soil, light, heat, and moisture. A practical knowledge of this kind is best obtained by growing the plants; but if one is confined to this source of knowledge alone, many mistakes are made at first, much time is consumed, and not a few plants ruined. The proper course is to begin with a few plants of the easiest culture, such as the Scarlet and Sweet-scented Geraniums, the Calla, Sweet Alyssum, &c., consult some intelligent grower, read the best writers on the subject, such as Rand, Buist, Bridgeman, &c., and subscribe for one or more good horticultural magazines. These may be considered indispensable aids, and will be found very pleasant companions. Careful reading and patient practice will open the road to success, and pave it with gems of the most brilliant hues. You may live in a world of your own creation, peopled with angel forms, always wearing the radiant smiles of the blessed. Flowers are great humanizers, ripening and mellowing the heart for the better life. Wherever you see a few plants in a window, however humble the house may be, you may take it for granted that goodness has not altogether taken its departure from its inmates. Inestimable soothers and comforters under all afflictions, we would not part with our knowledge of plants for all the pelf the world contains. Bring up your children to love plants, and you will put them in possession of one of the brightest links in the chain that connects time with eternity.

A GARDENER'S LODGE.

BY FREDERIC S. COPLEY, ARTIST, TOMPKINSVILLE, STATEN ISLAND.

THE accompanying design was made for William C. Bryant, Esq., and was erected on his beautiful estate at Roslyn, Long Island, in 1862. It stands on the hill above his residence, overlooking the Bay from the village to the Sound, possessing one of the finest views on the Island. It was intended as a gardener's lodge, and to accommodate one or two families, as circumstances might require, (one on each floor,) giving each three rooms, and a joint right to the scullery, sink, and cellar.

Arrangement.—The first story is 9 feet in the clear throughout, with every convenience suitable for the health and comfort of the occupants. From the porch, a small hall, lighted from the roof, is entered, with doors on either hand, to parlor or living room, and staircase passage in front, communicating with the kitchen

at the back, chambers above, and cellar beneath. (See *Fig.* 2.)

The chamber floor, second story, is 9 feet in the clear through the center, and

Fig. 1.—*Perspective View.*

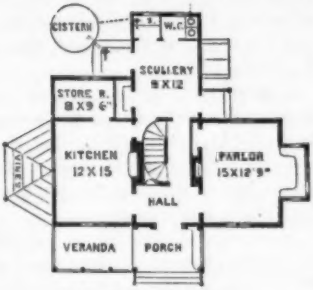


Fig. 2.—*First Floor.*

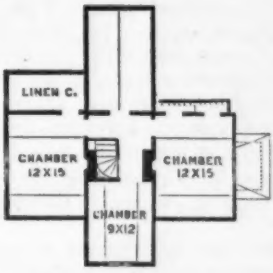


Fig. 3.—*Chamber Floor*

6 feet at the sides, (from the floor to the plate,) the roof cutting off three feet of the ceiling at the sides at an angle of 45 degrees. This loss of a few feet of the ceiling is more than compensated for by the cottage-like effect it gives to the rooms, harmonizing the inside with the out. The two principal chambers are provided with fire-places and ample closet room. The one over the parlor has two closets, built outside the frame, and a door into the single room, over the porch, forming a most desirable family chamber. Both these rooms have ventilators in the same chimney breast, and the small one may be warmed by a stove leading thereto. The other has a large closet over the store-room for trunks, linen, &c. The attic room over the kitchen wing is intended for the help.

By reference to the plans, it will be seen that every room is of good size and form, cheerfully lighted, thoroughly ventilated, and of easy access one to another, at the same time that privacy, so essential, is maintained throughout.

Construction.—The building is constructed of wood, vertically sided, and battened, (with 1½ inch tongued and grooved pine boards,) with horizontal strips in line of the window sills and floors, to hide the buts and small triangular pieces in the corners, which gives the pretty effect of paneling. The whole is stained by a mixture of oil, &c., that heightens the grain of the wood, and gives a brightness of color, and that cheerfulness of effect, so desirable in rural dwellings. The roof is of slate, in bands of purple and green, and the chimneys are surmounted by terra-cotta pots. The whole is filled in with brick. Cost, $——, built in a substantial and plain manner, of plank frame, &c., with cellar under kitchen and center, (7 feet in the clear,) cemented on the gravel the same as cistern, and all interior wood work stained.

As a specimen of cottage architecture, (on the smallest scale, lodge class,) it will rank as one of the best. For simplicity, variety of form, symmetry of proportion, with convenience of arrangement and economy of space and construction, it forms a model cottage, that any one might live in and many covet, besides being an addition to the landscape and an ornament to the grounds.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

BY HORTICOLA.

When we wrote the "Gleanings from our own Experience and that of Others," published in the February number of the Horticulturist, we believed the method of Dubreuil, mentioned in his work, "La Culture Perfectionée," etc., of making cuttings of grape vines, *new*. We mean the method, according to which, the cuttings are buried in little trenches, but inverted, i. e., with their tops downward. Dubreuil, it is true, does not pretend to be the discoverer of it; still he recommends it, and, we think, justly, and call it, therefore, his method.

A few days ago we read, in a rather desultory manner, a little book, published at Erlangen in 1859, (Die Weinbauschule von Dornfeld.) Its chief interest lies in the fact that it contains a circumstantial and accurate description of the vineyard culture as practiced in the kingdom of Wirtemberg. On page 59, the author says, that in the vicinity of the city of Heilbronn it is customary to treat the cuttings, before planting, exactly as recommended by Dubreuil. The process is there called *sturzen*. The only difference is, that the cuttings are put for several days in water; some moss and good soil are thrown into the trenches, which are filled up again after the cuttings are placed in them, with their tops downwards. Their ends are then covered with moss about an inch deep, and a little mound, about a foot high, is raised on them. They are taken out at the end of May or the beginning of June.

It would certainly be a gratuitous labor to trace this method back to its origin; it is, no doubt, mentioned in other works on the vine. Still Dubreuil had evidently no knowledge of it before the publication of his Culture Perfectionée.

In reading Columella, an agricultural writer who flourished about nineteen centuries ago, we can not help admiring the skill with which the vine was grown by the Romans; a skill so great that very little indeed has been added in the lapse of ages. Mr. Jaeger, under whose auspices Rubens's book on the vine was published, it being a part of Jaeger's highly valued horticultural library, shows that, as he confesses to be, he is a stranger in viticulture; for he extols Rubens's book on account *of the great number of new discoveries* he says the book contains. Still there is not a single new discovery in it. Old discoveries were discoveries in their time; they are no discoveries for us. Rubens's book is a very

useful little work; it is so good, because there is so little in it that is new, and that little is not good.

Pliny, Pliny, how deeply thou wast impressed with the imperfection of thy vast knowledge, which thy kinsmen thought as varied as nature herself, when thou exclaimedst:

Quantum est quod nescimus!

[It must and does happen that persons engaged in similar investigations will make similar discoveries, without either knowing what the other has done. We would suggest to Horticola that very interesting instances might be cited, and the search for them would be a pleasant pastime for one of his inquisitive turn of mind.—Ed.]

THE BEAN WEEVIL.

BY THE EDITOR.

It will probably be new to most of our readers that Beans are "afflicted" with *Weevils;* but so it is. They are not, however, beans "to the manor born" It may be remembered that we gave an account, last fall, of some Lima Beans, imported from Lima, that persisted in bearing no fruit. Some of them were left over, and placed in our seed basket for another trial. A short time since we overhauled them, when, to our amazement, we found them completely riddled with holes. A closer examination showed that these holes were made by a weevil, many of which were at the time eating their way out. In the same basket were other Lima Beans, (not from Lima, however,) which showed no signs of the weevil. Two conclusions may be drawn from these facts: first, that these weevils are of foreign origin; second, that they require *two years* to undergo their transformation. They do not seem to be identical with the weevil which infests Peas raised here, and which undergo their transformation in a single year.

We have stated that the Beans were completely riddled. We took *thirty-nine* weevils from one bean, and left others in the same bean to eat their way out. We present a drawing of one of the beans. It will be understood, of course, that the other side of the bean here shown was also full of perforations. This is altogether an unusual thing with us.

We have another interesting item to add on the same subject. We received from the Agricultural Department last spring a small bag labeled "Mexican Beans," from Mexico, which proved to be identical with our "Turtle Soup" Beans. A few of these were left over, and were also placed in the basket. These too were riddled with weevils, while beans of the same kind, in the same basket, but bought in New York, were entirely free from them. We give an illustration of one. These

weevils, like those in the Lima Beans, had also been *two* years in undergoing their transformation. They are the first example of the kind that we have ever seen.

We merely give the facts for the present. We have sent samples of the beans and the weevils to Dr. Fitch, and hope to hear something further about them. We have come to the conclusion that weevils "know beans" as well as other folks.

PLANT HOUSES.—XII.

BY THE EDITOR.

In our present illustration we have an example of what may be done with a wall that could not well be applied to any other useful purpose; at least not to any producing such gratifying results. It became necessary, for certain purposes, to cut away an embankment, and build a sustaining wall. After this had been done, we were asked if the wall could not be devoted to some useful purpose, and it was determined to build a lean-to grapery against it. The chief difficulty in the way was the wet and springy nature of the ground at the level marked water line in *Fig.* 2. It was found, however, that it could be drained; but at certain seasons of the year surface water would accumulate from the overflow of a milldam. But there is generally some way to overcome difficulties. In this case, the border was placed inside the house, and well raised, with a firm concrete bottom between the ground and water lines, and suitable drains connecting with the main drain under the front wall, to secure the requisite degree of dryness inside. Up to the present time we believe every thing has gone on very favorably. We have no doubt that many other places, now deemed useless, might be converted into good graperies at an expense that the results would fully warrant. In case this was successful, it was the owner's purpose to extend the house along the wall at the left; and it was therefore deemed best to insert the hip at the angle, to save future expense in tearing down the end of the house.

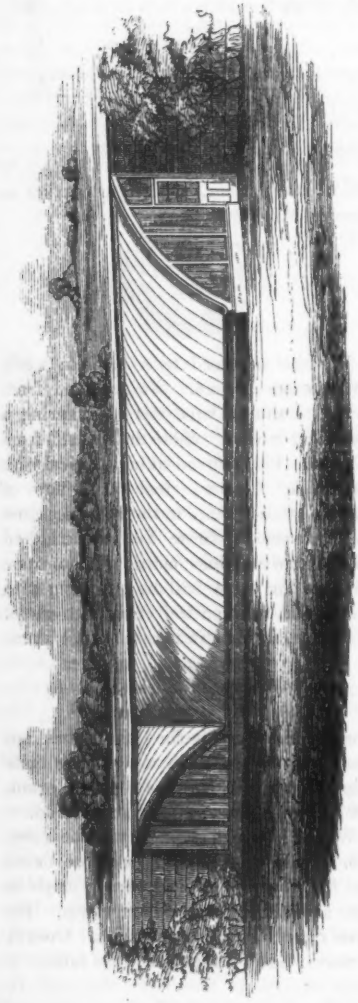


Fig. 1.—*Perspective.*

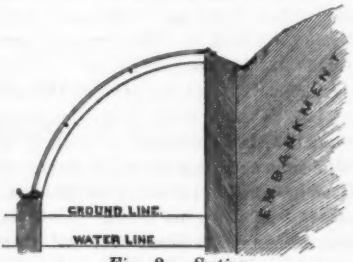


Fig. 2.—*Section.*

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the house, which, in connection with *Fig.* 2,

will give the reader a good idea of the general arrangement. *Fig.* 3 is a plan. The roof is curvilinear, like those already described in former articles in this series.

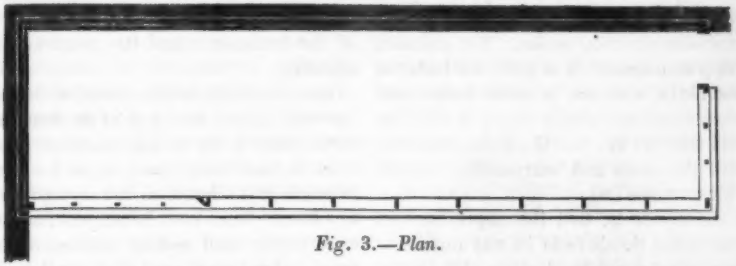


Fig. 3.—*Plan.*

Under the circumstances, we feel a good deal interested in the success of this house, and hope the owner's anticipations may be fully realized.

THE GRAPE ROT AND MILDEW.

BY J. STAGMAN, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

The subject of the *grape malady* has engaged the attention of every writer of any note who is acquainted with its effects. These persons have given various theories respecting the cause of the disease and the remedies to avoid it. While one will contend it is in the manner of pruning, another will say it is the nature of the soil and location; still another is certain it is atmospheric, while nearly all agree that it is accompanied by excessive moisture. All these various theories may approximate towards the truth, yet neither of them gives the true cause of the disease or the remedies to avoid it.

The fact that rot and mildew are accompanied with certain conditions common to most theories, proves one general cause covering them all, which gives the apparent plausibility to them.

To fully elucidate this subject, we will consider the disease under two separate heads. The first, grape rot, or rather rapid decay. The second, mildew, dry rot, or slow decay. These two maladies are very distinct in their action, and very opposite in their tendencies. What will cause the one will prevent the other; they can not exist at the same time in excessive action, for one is produced by a positive state, and the other by a negative.

The positive produces an excessive vegetable growth, while the negative retards it. Properly speaking, there is but one cause, but two conditions; both of these may take place in the same season—one is very likely to follow the other. When both of these conditions are properly balanced, there will be a healthy vital action, with neither the excessive growth nor the opposite. The one rather predominates in the young growth and commencement of the season, the other in the after growth and latter part of the season. The positive mostly develops the stock and vine, the negative the fruit. It acts on all vegetation, but some are more easily affected than others. The primary cause we believe to be electrical under its two conditions, positive and negative; when the first greatly predominates it produces the rot, and when the latter greatly predominates it produces the mildew. The evidence in favor of this theory appears to be more conclusive than any other, and reconciles many of the difficulties connected with other theories, and is in harmony with the philosophy of vegetable growth,

which may be seen from an illustration of the subject.

The grape rot, or rapid decay, takes place under the conditions most favorable to an excessive electrical action. For instance, damp atmosphere is a good conductor of electricity, and rain is much better, and when clouds are highly charged with this fluid they are in a positive state, compared with the earth and surrounding objects which contain less.

The result is, that the superabundant fluid in the clouds finds its way rapidly to the earth through the medium of the moist air, rain, and vegetation; consequently, every moist leaf, twig, and vine will receive an excess, which will produce a very rapid growth while this state continues; if this excessive action continues, the sap will increase in its action also, taking up an increased quantity of water and crude material which is unnecessary to a healthy growth, which will enlarge the conducting capacity of the stock, while the evaporation is not increased in like proportion.

If this state continues long enough, or comes in quick succession, accompanied with frequent lightning, it will hasten the rapid destruction of the fruit, and an unhealthy and immature vegetable growth.

No motion can take place in any organism without electricity; it is the living, moving principle of animated nature.

If this theory is true, that electricity is the cause of the movement of the fluids in vegetation, an increased quantity or excessive action long continued will produce the rot or rapid decay.

A very luxuriant growth is made at the expense of the fruit, for it can not mature and perfect it under such circumstances; it is only by retarding the growth that we hasten the maturity and the production of the best fruit; for that reason, young, vigorous growing trees and vines do not bear.

That the sap does not flow by capillary attraction or any inherent principle within the stock, may be proved by the slow growth of the horizontal branches, or by gradually bending all the vertical twigs and branches to a horizontal position, which would not materially affect the flow of the sap; neither could the pinching in of the branches retard its progress but slightly.

But, according to this electrical theory, the bending or pinching in of the branches would have a direct and material effect upon its conducting power, upon the same principle that a lightning rod or conductor to a house would have its action diminished or nearly destroyed by breaking off the point or bending the rod horizontally.

In harmony with this theory, we find the most rapid growing trees, and those that come most slowly to bearing, of a very erect growth, their leaves more sharp, long, and numerous, every twig pointing directly upwards, with their conducting points ready to secure imperceptibly all the electricity they can to hasten their growth to maturity.

If we are correct in our reasoning, any excessive pruning of a tree or renewal of a vine for the purpose of forming new wood, is deleterious to the production of good and abundant fruit. Therefore we should obviate any excessive pruning; we should so balance a tree and vine from the start that it will not need more pruning than will simply fulfill its healthful requirements; diffusing a general short, mature growth throughout the whole, and its fruit equally distributed, and that state continued from year to year.

We shall now make a few remarks on the grape *mildew*, which we believe to be produced by a negative electrical condition.

This takes place at a time the most unfavorable to the development of this fluid, or to its excessive action. For instance, in a very dry season, when the atmosphere is a poor conductor, and when the earth contains but little moisture; when this extreme state continues long enough, and tolerably early in the season, before the wood matures, the sap flows slowly, the vessels contract until the plant looses its

vital action; the mildew is then seen on the leaves, which soon begin to drop from the vine; the fruit does not ripen, but remains insipid and worthless. This condition may be seen in a very dry season on some varieties of the grape, gooseberry, and pea, but more frequently it is seen in a green-house grapery with a dry atmosphere and soil, and with imperfect ventilation.

In harmony with this theory, vines or plants will not do well and remain healthy if placed in glazed pots, with a dry atmosphere, though the soil be sufficiently wet; neither will a damp atmosphere do, unless the earth is moist also. The reason of this is, the conducting power is in proportion to the perfection of the circuit; if it is interrupted by a non-conductor for any length of time, it produces its deleterious effect in the form of mildew or slow decay.

This explains why there is so little benefit produced by watering plants in a very dry season in the open ground; thorough watering, and that continued up to the time of rain, is necessary to produce a healthy growth. If this watering should not reach beyond the extremities of the roots to the moist earth, it would be of little benefit; no amount of water could be of any use to a plant if it was encased in a dry stratum of earth.

This theory gives the reason why soil thoroughly drained and sub-soiled produces so much better in a dry or wet season; it gives a constant regular conducting medium far beyond the extremities of the roots, under all conditions of the weather.

Accordingly, vines or stocks subject to mildew, should be trained from the start, with just a sufficient number of branches placed in as vertical a position as practicable, without destroying any of the foliage, or retarding their growth by layering, pinching, or otherwise. We should cultivate the soil deeply, thoroughly, and repeatedly, especially in a very dry season.

We have now given these two extreme conditions which lead to decrease and decay; it should be the object of the cultivator to avoid either. This may be practically accomplished by the selection of a suitable location, and by the choice of vines that resist these deleterious influences.

Low, damp, rich soil favors the positive, while the opposite favors the negative.

The selection of a high situation, with a loose, porous, and calcareous soil, with pebbles and some sand intermixed, appears to be the best adapted to the healthy development of the grape, and to be exempt from the above maladies.

[The theory of Mr. Stagman is a very ingenious one, and is clearly and ably stated. The connection of electricity with heat, and the influence of these upon vegetation, will hardly be denied at this day. Still, these agents are so subtile in their nature, and so abstruse in their operation, that it requires patient investigation to deduce a theory from their action on the vegetable creation. Exception, we think, may be taken to some of Mr. Stagman's deductions, but we are not prepared at present to state them. We are much pleased with his article, and its freshness, and hope it may lead the way to further investigation. We shall be very glad to hear from him again.—Ed.]

THE TEIGNMOUTH APPLE.—Syn. Vermont Pippin.

BY CHARLES DOWNING, NEWBURGH, N. Y.

Origin, Vermont. Tree, vigorous, upright, and productive, and a regular bearer. *Fruit*, medium, oblate, obscurely angular. *Skin*, pale greenish yellow, often shaded with crimson in the sun, and thinly sprinkled with greenish and light dots, somewhat raised above the surface. *Stalk*, rather short, in a large, deep cavity. *Calyx*, open, or partially closed; segments small, slightly recurved; basin large, deep,

regular. *Flesh*, whitish, tender, moderately juicy, with a mild, peculiar subacid flavor. "Very good." Ripe November to February.

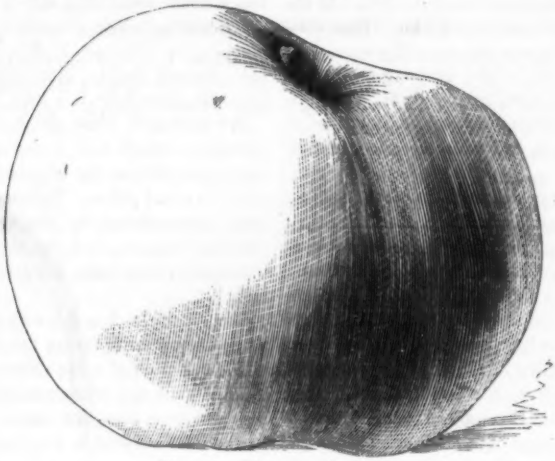


Fig. 1.—*Teignmouth Apple.*

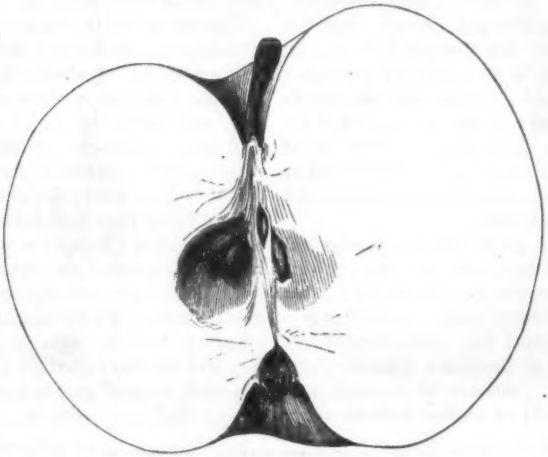


Fig. 2.—*Section.*

[To which we can only add, that we quite agree with Mr. Downing in calling this a very good apple, and thank him for the specimens from which our portrait was made.—Ed.]

THE WILMINGTON PEAR.

BY CHARLES DOWNING, NEWBURGH, N. Y.

Fruit, medium or below, obtusely turbinate, inclined, slightly angular, somewhat oblique. *Skin*, greenish yellow, considerably netted and patched with russet, especially around the stalk and calyx, and thickly sprinkled with russet dots.

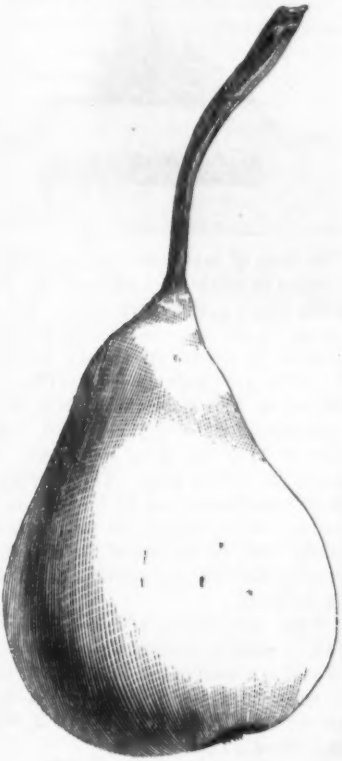


Fig. 1.—*Wilmington Pear.*

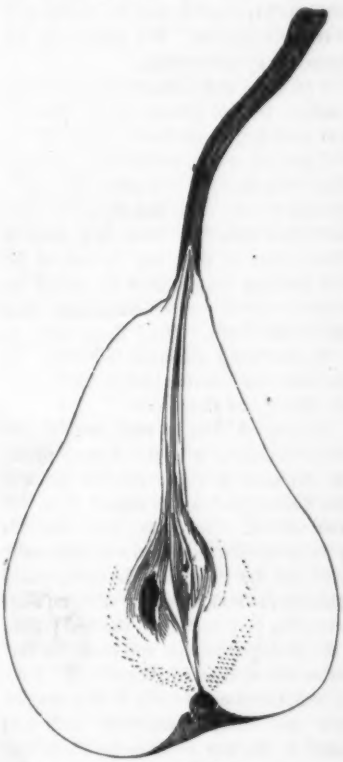


Fig. 2.—*Section.*

Stalk, long, generally straight, sometimes curved, much inclined, inserted in a slight depression, generally by a lip. *Calyx*, open, segments of medium length, persistent, sometimes recurved; basin rather shallow and uneven, often regular. *Flesh*, fine, whitish, very juicy, buttery, melting, with a rich, sweet, pleasant flavor, slightly aromatic. "Very good."

[Mr. Downing also sent us Dr. Brincklé's description, which does not differ materially from his or our own. Dr. Brincklé, however, sums up "best," a conclusion at which we have also arrived. It is undoubtedly a delicious pear to eat. It was raised by Dr. Brincklé from seed of the Passe Colmar, planted in 1847. It is in season in September and October.—Ed.]

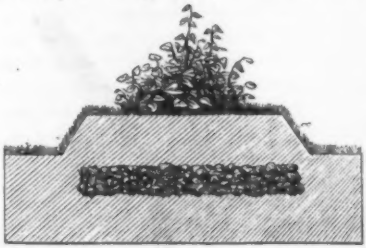
RAISED FLOWER BEDS.

FROM THE LONDON FLORIST AND POMOLOGIST.

We saw in a recent number of the *Florist and Pomologist* a design for a raised flower bed, which pleased us so much that we had it copied, and herewith present it to the reader. We also copy the accompanying description.

"A pleasing and attractive feature may be added to the present style of many flower gardens, where the beds are all cut out of the turf on the level surface, through having them raised 3 to 6 inches in height, according to their size, and as may be considered best suited. There is a number of them done in this way in one of the flower gardens here, which shows off the flowers to much greater advantage than those on the level. This, in addition to the design being generally admired, induces me to describe the plan to the readers of the *Florist and Pomologist*.

"For central beds, or such as might be considered desirable to give a more prominent character to in the general features of the flower garden, the raised beds will be well suited. Premising, then, that it is only to be an alteration of the beds already formed, the operation must be commenced by cutting the turf in strips with an edging-iron 2½ feet back from the bed; then use the turfing-iron, and roll back the turf as far as cut without breaking it off. Proceed next to raise the bank to the desired height and shape, allowing sufficient breadth on the top so as to be 15 inches wide when completed; it will then appear as represented in the annexed wood-cut.



The slope of bank must be regulated according to height, and will look best when made with a pretty sharp angle. Raising the soil in the figure is the next operation, and will be easiest effected by trenching it over in good wide spaces, and filling the bottom up with stones, brick-bats, or any open sort of material at command, taking care to keep the good soil at top, and about 20 inches deep. The keeping of these grass banks may be thought an objection, but we have never found any difficulty here, by the use of the scythe, in keeping them as neat and trim as the turf on the level.

"The introduction of raised beds will, I think, assist to obviate a great sameness, as well as a want of variety and good taste in many flower gardens where the beds are wholly on the level surface."—J. Webster, *Gordon Castle*.

MONUMENTS.—NO. II.

BY A PARISH MINISTER.

In a former paper on the subject of monuments to the dead in our church-yards and cemeteries, I alluded to the inappropriateness of heathen forms and symbols among a Christian people. In our older and ruder burial places throughout the country, the common form of these memorials is the modern head-stone; *modern*, inasmuch as the use of this kind of monument can not be traced back beyond a hundred, or a hundred and fifty years. The ornaments usually introduced in low relief

on these head stones, consist chiefly of cherubs, doves, scythes, and hour-glasses, mattocks and spades, skulls and cross bones.

I suppose there are persons who admire these conventional forms of ugliness, with puffy faces, which are intended as representations of one order of the holy angels. But, nevertheless, they are offenses against propriety and good taste. A sculptured angel keeping watch, as it were, over a tomb might not be an inappropriate emblem there; but cherubs, as they are commonly represented, would be much better omitted, for the work is generally so ill executed, that the ideas suggested by it are rather ludicrous than solemn.

In some places a dove with extended wings is more commonly found than cherubs at the top of the headstone; perhaps because it is a favorite nondescript of the village stone-cutter. If this is meant as symbolizing the Holy Spirit, it is evidently inappropriate, as the Christian doctrine confines His divine influences to the living, and extends them not to the dead. If it is meant as an emblem of the deceased, it must be remembered that such a symbol is unfit for even the purest and best of us.

In an English church-yard there is a ludicrous example of this ornament on the tomb of a man who had been a market gardener. The bird is represented as hovering, with out-stretched wings, the tail raised, and the head downwards. But the design was so coarsely executed that the neck resembles the stalk of a plant; the spreading tail looks like long, narrow leaves; and the oval body being marked with indentations to represent feathers, the poor man's neighbors naturally and innocently conceived that this ornament was intended for a winged pine-apple, in compliment to the gardener's professional skill.

Scythes and hour-glasses, mattocks and spades, skulls and cross-bones, being frequently intermingled, and placed in a group at the head of a tomb-stone, may be classed together, and one sentence of condemnation passed on them all. It is not that they are unmeaning, or that their meaning is intrinsically objectionable, or opposed to Christianity; but they are mere symbols, and by no means imposing symbols, while the grave itself, over which they stand, is a stern, awful, and impressive reality, awakening far more solemn thoughts than these mere types of mortality can do. Besides, they are altogether defective in inspiring thoughts with which the sight of the grave should always be accompanied—thoughts of that which lies beyond the grave, and of the time when death shall be swallowed up in victory. They might be appropriate enough for a heathen, but a Christian wants something more.

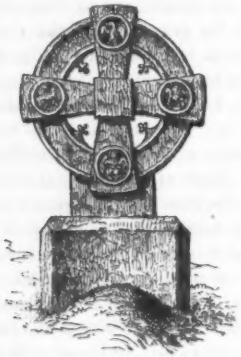
The same may be said of a still more offensive class of monumental ornaments, urns, and reversed or extinguished torches. They are both copied from pagan tombs. The extinguished torch represents that hope is at an end, and that the soul no longer exists. The urn was used to preserve the ashes into which the bodies of the dead had been consumed. It is therefore only a memorial of that abominable heathen usage. What the intended meaning of the fillets and chaplets which are sometimes copied on Christian tombs from Greek designs, may be, is beyond our knowledge.

There are other sepulchral emblems in use which are equally objectionable or absurd. But I come now to speak of one emblem which is perfectly unobjectionable, perfectly appropriate, full of solemnity, full of consolation. It lifts up our hopes, it dries our tears, it turns our mourning into gratitude. That emblem is the cross, which in some form or other, more or less conspicuously, should be exhibited on every monument and tomb-stone erected as memorials of our Christian dead.

The cross, as a symbol of the redemption, of the resurrection and eternal blessedness beyond the grave, is as old as Christianity, and its proper and reverential use must be apparent to every one. It is

the most expressive of all Christian emblems, and it should be the sign which the Christian most honors, in every place where it may be appropriately set up, and especially in the sleeping places of the dead.

We present two examples of appropriate and expressive head-stones. They need little explanation, as their symbols and proportions are obvious to even slight examination. They may be cut from marble, or from any of our most durable stones which may be preferred to marble.



The base of this head-stone should be ten inches in thickness, two feet wide, and twenty-one inches in height. The circle which supports the cross, and is itself a symbol of eternity, should have a radius of fourteen inches. The base should be firmly fixed in a heavy stone planted beneath the surface of the ground. Brown stone would be a suitable material for this monument.

The height of the next head-stone from the surface of the ground to the top of the cross should not exceed four and a half feet. Marble or Caen stone would be proper material.

In our next paper I shall speak of inscriptions, only adding here, that they should be modest and simple, containing little more than names and dates, with, perhaps, an appropriate text of Scripture, expressive of Christian humility or hope. They should not be arrogant or boastful, and, above all, they should not "lie like an epitaph."

[There can be little doubt that some at least of our monuments and head-stones are unmeaning and in bad taste, and others so wretchedly executed as to sink into mere caricatures; but the trouble is to get something better. We are a little curious to know what our correspondent will say when he gets among the "epitaphs;" for some of them do, in virtue of some kind of necromancy inherent in them, make real saints out of the veriest sinners.—Ed.]

MARKET GARDENING.

BY A JERSEYMAN.

I have been reading for a third time an article on "Market Gardening," page 182, volume for 1863, by a "Jersey Market Gardener," and am still at a loss to know what he seeks to prove, or whether his arguments of incompetency, ignorance, and lack of capital are not just as applicable to every other pursuit in life as to that of

market gardening. It is no argument for or against any business or trade that a person may undertake it without previous training, and fail or succeed at the end of five years; for it is a well understood and accepted fact that he who has qualified himself by a long apprenticeship, and who, at the end of five years' experience as a proprietor, shall have established his business without any money accumulation whatever, has done well, and has met with success far beyond the average. There is no legitimate business or profession that can be undertaken with a sure promise of sudden wealth, and we will venture to say that the Jersey Market Gardener himself had not, at the end of five years, with all his skill and prompt business capacity, done more than establish the broad foundation to a business which has since led to his prosperity and renown.

It is a habit among successful business men, authors, &c., to dispense a good deal of gratuitous advice to the young, adverse to following the pursuits wherein they have gained their wealth and reputation; and Timothy Titcomb's advice to Mrs. Felicia Hemans Jones and the Jersey Market Gardener's advice to the readers of the HORTICULTURIST are about on a par. The idea of a man writing down a pursuit which has given him wealth, position, and fame, seems to be absurdly ridiculous. The advice certainly may be safe, but would not have any weight with those who think for themselves.

Now the facts about Market Gardening, in spite of the contrary opinions of one who has made a fortune in its pursuit, are simply these: that in the vicinity of large cities, and more particularly in the vicinity of New York, Market Gardening, understandingly and intelligently pursued, is one of the sure roads to wealth; and that future prospects in that business hold out the most flattering inducements. New York, as a city, at the present time, contains one million inhabitants; as a metropolis, that is, comprising its immediate suburbs, one million three hundred thousand inhabitants. Taking the ratio of increase for the last forty years, and supposing that it continues the same, in fifteen years the population of New York, as a metropolis, will be fully three millions.

The value of superior land for market garden purposes ranges from $100 to $300 per acre; and inside of a circle of 10 miles' radius from the City Hall, a market gardener we know of, who has made a handsome competency, and is desirous to return to the father land to enjoy it, offers his acres for sale at considerably less than $300 per acre; and this includes good buildings and quite an amount of glass, and lies on the outer edge of this circle. The market gardeners from Long Island come greater distances with their own teams. We have seen them fully fourteen miles from New York, and are well aware that this distance does not limit this class of business; in fact, it extends, in all its varied branches, fully 150 miles on all the different railroad and steamboat routes which pour their wealth and abundance into the great and growing city of New York.

What the effect of adding an average number annually of one hundred thousand persons to the consuming population of New York, will be on the business of Market Gardening, can be readily estimated by careful business men. It must show, by all fair modes of reasoning, that, judiciously and patiently pursued, it will lead to a handsome result. This the Jersey Market Gardener finally admits in his summing up, though he has not studied statistics of success in life enough to know what success is. He says: "But, like men in all other kinds of business, there is not universal success. There is not more than one-fourth of the market gardeners that have made money. Another fourth, perhaps, make a comfortable living. Another live from hand to mouth. The remainder have failed, lost their all, and left; and the cause of failure, in nine cases out of ten, has been insufficiency of capi-

tal." Now this is what we call a first-rate result. But first let us ask, what business is there in this world in which there is universal success? Three per cent. of all the mercantile world are successful at the end of only twenty years; yet twenty-five per cent. of the market gardeners make money, and twenty-five per cent. more make a comfortable living, and the richest and smartest of them all tells us it is a discouraging business. What pursuit, profession, trade, or occupation, can show fifty per cent. of their number getting a comfortable living, and half of this fifty per cent. getting rich? There is none other. The most uniformly successful men are those who till the soil in one way or another. The question whether a capitalist, a merchant, lawyer, or business man can attend to his business in town and farm or garden profitably in the country, we propose to discuss at some future time. This article applies to those bred to the business, and who give it their personal attention. There must be stepping stones to success in all pursuits.

[It is said that "when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war." It is just so when Jerseyman meets Jerseyman. We, of course, shall stand by, and see that "nobody is hurt."—Ed.]

COUNTRY SEATS.—NO. I.

BY E. H. C.

Messrs. Editors:—I have examined, with a good deal of interest and pleasure, Mr. Holly's volume on Rural Architecture, recently published by the Appletons, and, with your permission, I shall make it the basis of two or three articles on the subject of country homes. It is a good omen to such as are interested in the real material progress of our country, that books treating upon this and kindred topics, find publishers and readers; for it is only by the diffusion of works of merit that the public taste can be cultivated. Mr. Holly truly says, that "our country abounds in most interesting and picturesque scenery, embracing ocean, river, lake, and mountain, easy of access, habitable and healthy; and though filled with delightful villa sites, is too frequently suffered to remain neglected and unpeopled in its choicest nooks." And this is not because there is any deficiency of wealth for the appropriation and embellishment of these choicest sites, or of a willingness to lavish wealth on country places. On the contrary, we see, every year, costly establishments, designed for summer residences, or for permanent homes, built up with as little regard for expense as for taste. The increased facilities of travel and communication have brought a large extent of beautiful country within reach of our great towns, so that the time consumed in passing from business to the open country does not exceed that which is necessarily employed in reaching the more desirable localities of our cities. The deficiency is found, then, rather in the culture than in the dispositions and means of our people. And the remedy and supply for this must be provided in the dissemination of meritorious works treating upon the subjects of architecture and domestic embellishments, by means of which our people may be educated to a higher and purer taste. Mr. Holly, in his present work, has done something towards this object; and although we do not regard his effort as a decided advance upon what we had before, yet, as a contribution towards a very desirable object, we are glad to hail its appearance. We shall have occasion, as we go on, to examine his plans, and to point out what we regard as defective, as well as commendable.

In constructing country homes there are three prime conditions to be observed: 1st, Adaptation; 2d, Accommodation; 3d, Ex-

pression. By adaptation I mean not only the arrangement of the main structure as to material and form, to suit the locality and character of the grounds; but a fitness as respects the real wants of the occupants and the purposes of a country house. Nobody wants a modern country house planted down in the open country; nor should any one desire to find a refuge from the bare streets of the city in the little less bare streets of a country village.

The material used in our country houses has not been enough considered by us in building them. Timber is abundant in almost all parts of the country, and the facility with which an establishment can be built up in a few weeks, of this material, has been the main reason, we suppose, why we have so many abortions, in the shape of Grecian temples, and Gothic minature cathedrals and castles, scattered over the land. Let it be considered, that in building our country houses, we are not simply providing for our children—we are constructing a homestead. It is for the want of this consideration that we have so few *homes* in our country, so few house associations, around and among which our deepest and purest affections are entwined. Our thin lath and plaster constructions, which rattle and tremble in every wind and leak in every rain, do not afford very good or permanent centers for these associations and affections.

We have some native woods that are durable, out of which we may build houses that will last for several generations; but with these, even, the cost of frequent repairs and painting is so great, to say nothing of the annoyances thereby entailed, that, in point of economy, wood is by no means the most desirable material. Nor is it, in any way, the most desirable. The prevailing taste in country dwellings, before Mr. Downing's time, was defective enough. A large, square, wooden house, painted intensely white, garnished with bright green Venetian blinds—standing in a contracted yard—inclosed with a red or white wooden fence, was the very beau ideal of a gentleman's country dwelling. We are thankful that this dispensation has passed away; and we revere the memory of Downing, and of others like him, who were instrumental in bringing in a better taste in such matters.

The first cost of a stone or brick dwelling somewhat exceeds that of wood, even in places where these materials are readily obtained. But if they are properly constructed, such buildings will need very few repairs for many years. It is often objected, on the other hand, that such buildings are damp and unwholesome. This is, undoubtedly, true of many of the old stone houses which we find scattered about the country. And it is true, because they were not properly built. When properly built, they preserve the most equal temperature at all seasons. They are warm in winter and cool in summer, and the sudden changes which affect the weather without need scarcely be felt by the delicate invalid within the walls of the stone mansion, if suitable attention is given to the simple matter of ventilation. But I need not dwell on this subject in the present paper. I shall have occasion to speak of it again, before our subject is concluded.

[The work of Mr. Holly, alluded to by our correspondent, we have reviewed in a former number of the Horticulturist. The contrast between our country houses now and before the days of Downing is striking indeed. The improvement is not only very marked, but very great. The labors of Downing in introducing a better style and purer taste will be gratefully remembered. Nor, in this connection, should the labors of Vaux be overlooked, following, as he does, closely in the footsteps of his former associate. His work on "Country Seats," from the press of the Harpers, is, in our opinion, the best since the days of Downing. There are two points alluded to by our correspondent which we hope he will elaborate somewhat, the *homestead* and *stone houses*.—Ed.]

FRENCH DWARF PEAR TREES.

BY J. G. B.

THERE is, perhaps, no one thing wherein Americans exhibit a greater absurdity for foreign productions, than in the purchase of dwarf pear trees. A friend purchased last year on the street a hundred of these trees. Upon inquiry, what varieties, he answered me they were all *imported*, and of the *best* kinds. This is but an illustration of numerous similar cases. It may be, and doubtless is, advantageous frequently for the dealer to import his trees. He is governed by the cost, as compared with the prices here, as also the difficulty in obtaining a needed supply and the varieties desired. The intelligent grower understands this whole subject; and if he requires a few dozen or a few hundreds of trees, he will select his varieties, and purchase them of a reliable nurseryman on our own soil. He will generally procure a better article, or at least the trees will be in better condition. Packed closely as foreign trees must necessarily be for exportation, they become heated by the confinement, important limbs broken, and they are otherwise mutilated and injured. A new variety originating abroad, must necessarily be imported by some amateur or nurseryman; and if the market here demands them in quantities before this home supply is sufficient, enterprising men send out their orders, and if to be had, procure the trees.

But it is not this necessity to which we refer, but the idea that the tree is better and of a good variety because it is a French dwarf pear tree. Your dress may or may not be better because the material was manufactured in England, France, or Germany. Your wife may insist upon having the imported goods, and be all right in taste and economy; but when you apply her preference for foreign goods as a principle to guide you in your purchase of pear trees, you first commit an error, and afterwards innocently boast of it. As the season of planting is at hand, it is to be hoped these hints will not be without benefit.

[Among a certain class of people there is a strange hallucination in regard to French pear trees. They suppose that *French* dwarf pears are not only a distinct order of pears, but very much superior to others, and it is sometimes difficult to convince them that our pears and French pears are precisely identical. This is the class of persons referred to by B., and to such we commend his remarks.—ED.]

"HOW TO BUILD A CHEAP VINERY."

BY DR. NORRIS, WILMINGTON, DEL.

A VINERY may be lean-to or span-roofed, of any length, and may be built of wood, brick, or stone, although, when the latter is abundant, we think it most desirable. Suppose a moderate sized house to be required, say a lean-to 50 by 13. Twelve feet for the back wall and three for the front will be suitable heights. Foundations at least three feet below the surface, and the largest stones in the bottom. The front wall should only be one foot of stone above the surface, the other two feet being made up of glass sash hung on hinges to the front wall plate frame. Iron rods should be built in front and back walls to secure the wall plates firmly. The mason work may generally be done by the perch. Seventy cents a perch is the working rate, the employer finding sand and lime. The carpenter work can be done cheapest by

contract, and for a house of the above dimensions should not be over seventy-five dollars, the contractor finding the lumber. This includes a door in one end, and a run of movable sash hung to the back wall plates to open and shut at pleasure for ventilation.

A good trellis may be made by building in and firmly bracing in each end wall an iron bar perforated with holes, through which the wires may pass. Slight iron supports in the rafters are used to steady the wire. This form of trellis will present an equal stress on both sides of the house, and prevent any disposition to swag.

Borders may be made all inside, partly inside, and partly outside, or all outside. Entire inside borders are well adapted to forcing houses. For cold vineries, where no forcing is done, partly inside and partly outside are most in favor. The entire border outside, with vines planted out and not inside, would seem only adapted to our southern latitudes. Whichever way the border is made, good drainage is indispensable. Three feet of soil to be removed and carted off, except the top spit. At the bottom all the old spalls from the building, broken brick bats, and small stones come well in play. They should be arranged so as to have a gentle descent from the back wall of the vinery. A good compost to fill up should be prepared some time previous to erecting the house, by getting old sods from a rich pasture, and suffering them to lie inverted in a heap, among which is sprinkled well decomposed stable manure, wood ashes, bone dust, leaf mould, sand, etc., and giving the whole pile an occasional turning. Now, on top of your drainage, place a row of inverted sods, then fill up from your compost heap. When the vines are planted, have at hand a barrow of leaf mould, with which to surround the fine fibrous roots.

No grapery should be without a heating apparatus. Although some of the finest specimens have been produced without any fire heat, yet there is too much risk; and the cost of a heater may be made so small, that no one building a grapery will begrudge it. Hot water apparatus is the best, but most costly, besides requiring a fireman to manage. The old-fashioned brick flue is as good as any, although an air-tight stove will answer very well in a small house.

The unsightliness of the flue may be remedied by putting it entirely beneath the ground, directly under the walk if liked. The old Black Hamburgh should be the main dependance in the cold vinery. It will bear more exposure than almost any of the other foreigners. A vine or two of the Frontignans will not be out of place. They will mature considerably earlier than the Hamburghs. For late varieties, select West Saint Peter's. The Barbarossa, although prominent among the late keeping varieties, is said to require a longer period to mature its fruit than obtainable without an earlier start than a house without artificial heat will get. A vine of the Muscat of Alexandria may, with propriety, be introduced, although requiring more artificial heat than the other varieties to bring it to the highest perfection. It is later than the Hamburgh, and an excellent keeper.

[We are most decidedly in favor of cheap and substantial graperies; for one that is not durable is not really cheap at any price. We confess that, with all our experience, we are staggered at Dr. Norris's figures. A good house, 50 by 13, for $75 would be cheap indeed, and place a grapery within the reach of every man who desires one. We should be glad to know that this could be done. We propose to place the Doctor's article in the hands of a number of contractors, to get estimates. We should feel obliged if some friends would do the same for us in Boston, Philadelphia, and other places; but we hope they will procure none but reliable estimates, for if they come down to the Doctor's figures, we shall accept a dozen or more of them for our friends. The materials and the work must be good

and substantial. We shall publish the estimates when received. Will you not yourself, Doctor, procure us such an estimate? —Ed.]

THE TAYLOR GRAPE.

BY S. MILLER, LEBANON, PA.

Editor Horticulturist,—The varied accounts of this fruit, and frequent denunciations of it, compel me to defend it, as I was among the first to recommend it to the grape growers.

A graft of David Miller, near Carlisle, Penn., bore eighty handsome clean bunches the year after it was set. I have a vine when in its fourth year, from a single eye stuck into the ground in the open air, that bore last fall one bushel of fruit. That bushel made at least three gallons of wine, now worth $4 per gallon. A wealthy wine merchant of Philadelphia, to whom I sent a bottle, wrote back, "Miller, your Taylor wine is good. Send me 1,000 vines." (He is also a vineyardist.) He took all the vines I had, and has engaged all I can grow for another year. (You see by this, Mr. Editor, I have no axe to grind.)

An M.D. of Chester County, Penn., of grape experience, writes: "When I have eaten nearly a fill of Delawares, Crevelings, &c., then I top off with a hatful of the only *real* spicy grape we have, 'the Taylor.'" The President of the Missouri Horticultural Society writes me that they all pronounced my Taylor wine among the best. I sent them a little—I knew the officers. Now I think this ought to be a little in its favor, and prevent persons who have it from rooting it out, or grafting it over as a worthless stock. It must be trained different from many others; it should have plenty to do, for if headed back as severely as most others require, it will be in such a blast at the time of blossoming, that they will be thrown off instead of setting, and will truly appear as represented in Fuller's new book.

Had Mr. Fuller seen my vine above mentioned, and a host of little ones not trimmed at all last spring, loaded with fruit, nice, full, compact bunches, I think he would have given the Taylor a more favorable description. While on this subject, let me impress upon your readers the importance of raising seedlings, as there are improvements yet to be made. To show what an humble individual can perform, I will state that a man in this neighborhood sold a white seedling lately for $500, which should certainly encourage others to try their hand at it.

[Accompanying Mr. Miller's letter was a box containing two bottles, one filled with wine made from the Taylor grape; and after tasting it several times, we are compelled to say that it is a good wine; indeed, it is much better than any that we have seen made from the Isabella, Concord, or any of that class of grapes. Out of five vines sent to us for the Taylor's Bullitt, only one proved to be true, and this may have been the case with others. Under ordinary treatment it sheds its blossoms, leaving the bunches very small and thin. An expression of opinion from those who have grown it might be of benefit to the horticultural community. But, friend Miller, what about the other bottle, labeled "wine from the Clinton grape?" We had no idea that wine so transparent and ethereal could be made from the Clinton. Why, even a babe might drink a gallon of such wine without the slightest apprehension of intoxication. It is like air itself. We even tilted the bottle upside down, and yet the wine glass seemed not to gain or the bottle to lose aught of its contents! How *did* you make such wine? Is it a secret?—Ed.]

A PORTRAIT OF A GARDENER.

PAINTED BY HIMSELF.

Two years ago I addressed you for a garden place, and by your kindness I got the employment at ———. You had told me that this place was a bad one; nothing for encouragement, much hard work, and at a low remuneration. I should try it, and you promised to furnish me at a later time with a better situation, because you had always the best opportunity to accommodate such a desire of mine. I accepted that place, and found at entering that your description made of it was a true one; and more than that, the gardener was to be slighted to the lowest laborer. No wonder I felt inclined to leave directly; yet you had given me this employ; you could think me ungrateful if I left; and, besides, I believed I discovered that my employer took some interest in rural affairs. This seemed to me inducement enough to stay, and to begin my work faithfully. But I had to suffer very much: my employer, pretending to be a cultivator since twenty-five years, and not even knowing the first elements of the matter, bolded to *direct every work*, naturally enough not to any fixed plan, neither to the settled principles of practical experience, nor to the directions given in good books—in your valuable Horticulturist and in the Agriculturist—but almost in every case acting perversely with oblique alterations, *casus obliquus*. Thus, to see and to be forced to assist at such things, I suffered much. Thus it was all the time of my being there; and when I went for another season to such a miserable place, the only reason I had—I confess it to you—was, to see still more, and to collect more of the curiosities of a gentleman who pretended to be a twenty-five years' cultivator; and this motive gave me pleasure and encouragement to endure till it became quite intolerable to me, and I left. I feel, and never felt to be angry to my employer; on the contrary, I pitied him always. He had some nice qualities, and I wish him all that wherein he may find pleasure and happiness. I relate to you the above because I feel devoted to you, and I put great confidence in you, and in your judgment, and I know that you understand me.

Now, gentlemen, I am out of employment. The last I had, by your recommendation, was a bad one. I hope and request you to give me a better place; a place at a gentleman's of means, who takes pleasure in gardening, and who allows his gardener to work according to a reasonable and agreed plan, without interruption or meddling with the gardener's affairs; where are green-house and grapery, and so many hot-beds as may be needed, and a remuneration at about $50 per month, and a dwelling-house. Should you get on hand and willing to give me such a place in the course of the present year—I am not in a hurry this—you would much oblige and find me grateful.

To show you, gentlemen, my sincere devotion and confidence, I offer you to read, and I will give your Horticulturist the preference for publishing, if you should like it, my article, "*A Gentleman and his Gardener*," in four chapters, and another little piece, "*Interview Between an Editor and his Friend*." Both these articles I have given now to be corrected; they will be found pleasing, interesting, and instructive for every reader who takes an interest in the rural affairs, and especially in gardening.

[The above is a genuine letter. It is such a life-like portrait, that it carries with it its own commentary, and is too good to be lost. The heading is our own.—ED.]

THE COLD GRAPERY—PREPARATION OF THE BORDER.

BY THE EDITOR.

We have a great many inquiries as to the best mode of making grape vine borders, &c., and propose to answer some of them here. It will be seen, however, that we have no patented process. After having erected a house, the next important step is to prepare a suitable border. The materials that we prefer consist of sod mould, muck, sand, and old manure, to which may be added ashes, lime, horn shavings, bone-dust, and charcoal dust, as they may be had. The body of the compost should consist of sod mould, muck, and sand in about equal proportions. Sod mould is usually obtained by taking the top spit of an old pasture lot; but in some places this can not be had, and then any ordinary good top soil may be used. Sometimes this will be sandy enough without the further addition of sand. There should be sufficient sand to make the compost light and porous. The materials above named should be thoroughly mixed together, which is best done by spreading on the ground a layer of mould three or four inches thick; on this put an inch of manure; next three inches of muck, which may be lightly sprinkled with lime; next a layer of sand, on which sprinkle the charcoal dust, bone dust, or ashes, charcoal dust being the best, but all may be used. Now put on a layer of mould again, and proceed as before, till the heap is sufficiently large to fill the border. After a day or two the heap should be turned by cutting it down from top to bottom, which will mix the materials together in a very thorough manner. The compost will be very much improved by being turned several times at intervals of three or four days.

We have sometimes known it to be difficult to procure the materials above named, and we have then suggested the use of the best top soil that could be got, with some scrapings from the barn-yard, and the addition of enough sand to make the compost light. Several good borders have been made in this way, but not, in our opinion equal to that first described. The bone-dust usually sold in the market is not good for much, the best part of the bones having been removed before the bones were ground. The bones should be *fresh*.

We may follow this article with others, giving a list of the best vines, with directions how to plant them, &c.

NEW OR RARE PLANTS, &c.

We have no foreign files to look at this month, and our list of new plants is consequently small. We have a few notes, however, which we here add.

Lychnis Senno.—A hardy, herbaceous perennial shrub, introduced from Japan by Mr. Fortune. There are three distinct varieties, one having red flowers, another white ones, and the third red flowers with white stripes.—(*Florist and Pomologist*, iii., 73.)

Grapes.—*Graham's Muscat Muscadine*, described as having a fine muscat flavor, equal to Chasselas Musqué, and not so liable to crack. An abundant bearer, bunches as large as Royal Muscadine, and berries as large as the Dutch Sweetwater.—*Royal Vineyard*, a late white grape. Bunches hard and well set, sometimes long and tapering, and sometimes short ovate. Berries large and roundish ovate, skin white and somewhat transparent. Flesh firm and crackling, with a fine Sweetwater flavor. This is a fine-looking grape, and received a first class certificate from the Fruit Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society.—(*Dr. Hogg's Report.*)

Arbor Vitæ.—Mr. Brinckerhoff, of Fish-

kill Landing, has a new Arbor Vitæ, elsewhere described. We do not know what name he proposes to give it. It is a fine plant.

JAPAN PLANTS.—Messrs. Strong & Spooner, of Brighton, Mass., send out some new Japan plants, introduced by Dr. Hull. We have not seen a list of them, but it contains Thuja dolabrata and T. dolabrata variegata, Maples, &c.

MONTHLY CALENDAR.—MAY.

THE season, as was anticipated, is so backward, that most of the observations in last month's Calendar will apply to this.

Orchard, Fruit Garden, &c.—Every thing in the way of plowing, pruning, cleaning up, &c., should be finished without delay. Grafting may be done up to the middle, or even latter part of the month, if the grafts are in good condition. On grape vines, rub off all eyes that are not wanted, and see that arms, &c., are tied in their places. The planting of vines should not be longer delayed. Provide suitable stakes when they are put in the ground, and cut to three eyes. Cuttings may still be planted in the open ground. Make new Strawberry beds, and clean up old ones. Look over fruit trees of all kinds.

The Grapery.—As soon as the vines in the *Cold Grapery* are well broken, tie them up. Keep the house rather warm and moist, and ventilate carefully. Rub off such buds as are not needed. Keep the borders loose on the surface, and free from weeds. Be careful not to sodden the borders. In the *Hot Grapery*, the first crop will now be ready to cut; too often, however, the bunches are cut when only colored, and not ripe. Other crops will be coloring, and some only just set. In these cases, attend to pinching in, thinning out, &c., as before directed. Be on the lookout for mildew at all times, and dust with lime and sulphur. Ventilate carefully, and avoid cold currents blowing on the vines.

Green-House.—It will now be time to think of putting plants out of doors, except such as are to be kept for ornamenting the house during the summer, such as Fuchsias, Gloxinias, Achimenes, Begonias, Caladiums, &c., the latter of which ought now to be encouraged to grow by repotting, &c. For such plants as are to go out, select a sheltered place with a south-eastern or eastern exposure. Many can be turned into the flower border. Azaleas that have been retarded will keep their bloom longer by being lightly shaded.

Plants in Rooms.—During this month all room plants should be removed to the open air, and sheltered from high winds. Put some boards or coal ashes on the ground, to prevent the worms from entering the pots. Geraniums, Verbenas, and plants of similar kind may be put in the flower border. Callas may be allowed to dry up gradually, as may also Ixias, Babianas, Lachenalias, and similar bulbs.

Ornamental Grounds.—It is to be supposed that every thing in the way of planting, pruning, raking, &c., has been done, except, it may be, planting evergreens. Bedding plants may now be put in their places. Annuals may be used for bedding purposes, such as Phlox, Candytuft, Alyssum, Ten Week Stock, &c. Annuals may also be used freely in the borders. They are among the most beautiful of summer blooming plants, and do not receive half the attention they deserve. Dahlias may be planted up to the last of the month. They are all the better for being planted late. A few bedding plants should always be kept in reserve, to fill up any vacancies that may accidentally occur.

Vegetable Garden.—There is still much to do in this department; indeed, the succession of crops required and the battling with weeds make the whole season a very busy one. In addition to the seeds named last month, Corn, Bush Beans, Cucum-

bers, Melons, Okra, Peppers, &c., may now be sown. Bush Beans and Sweet Corn must be sown at short intervals to keep up a constant supply. Read remarks of last month, which will mostly apply to this.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

To Contributors and Others.—Communications, Letters, Catalogues, Periodicals, Remittances, Packages by Express, Advertisements, &c., should be directed to Mead & Woodward, Editors and Proprietors, 37 Park Row, New York. Exchanges should be addressed to "The Horticulturist."

"The Right Way."—This is the title of a small volume written by Jeannie Harrison, which, however, is a *nomme de plume*. It is a pleasant little story, written in a pleasant way, and will greatly interest the children, for whom it was designed. The authoress seems to have a nice appreciation of the wants of the youthful mind. The style is animated, the narrative well sustained, and the "right way" shown to be a very pleasant one to walk in. We commend the book to children, and especially those who love the Sunday School.

Bay Ridge Horticultural Society.—Under this name a club has been formed at Bay Ridge, L. I., which promises to be of great benefit to that locality. It has a specific object, and that is to improve and beautify the place; for this purpose meetings are held semi-monthly to discuss topics having a bearing on this object, reading essays, hearing lectures, &c. The character of the men interested in it is a guarantee of its usefulness and success. We have attended some of the meetings, and been delighted with the spirit and earnestness of the members. We append a list of officers:

President, Hon. Henry C. Murphy. *Vice-Presidents*, Teunis G. Bergen, John G. Bergen, William C. Langley, George T. Hope, Henry A. Kent. *Treasurer*, J. A. Perry. *Recording Secretary*, William A. Perry. *Corresponding Secretary*, B. C. Townsend.

A New Arbor Vitæ.—Some two years since we saw at Mr. Brinckerhoff's, Fishkill Landing, a new Arbor Vitæ, which we considered so good, that we advised him to send it out. This he has at last concluded to do. In habit and general appearance it very much resembles the Siberian, but it is tinged with a bright golden yellow, which gives it a most striking and beautiful appearance. It seems to be quite as hardy as the American, and keeps its color well during the winter. We regard it as a decided acquisition, and have no doubt that it will become a great favorite in ornamental grounds.

Horticultural Association of the American Institute.—In our last we announced the formation of this Association. On Wednesday, April 6th, its organization was completed, and officers for the ensuing year elected. The meeting was well attended, and graced by the presence of ladies. A very good feeling prevailed, and a determination was generally expressed to place the society upon a solid foundation. The parties chiefly concerned in the organization of the society are men of energy, deeply imbued with a love of horticulture, who will spare no time or labor to give it a high and permanent character. Its proceedings we shall endeavor to make room for monthly. We must not omit to mention that to Mrs. J. W. Barrow belongs the distinction of being not only the first lady

member, but also the first exhibiter, her flowers affording us an appropriate subject for remark on the formation of bouquets. We append an abstract of the proceedings furnished by the Secretary, omitting, however, our own remarks for want of room.

Horticultural Association of the American Institute.—This new Association met at the rooms of the Institute in the Cooper Union Building, on Wednesday evening, April 6, 1864, for the purpose of completing its organization.

Peter B. Mead, Editor of the HORTICULTURIST, called the meeting to order, and moved that Nathan C. Ely take the chair, which was unanimously adopted.

P. T. Quinn, of New Jersey, read the proceedings of the previous meetings, which were approved.

Mr. Mead, from the Committee to select a list of officers, said the Committee had attended to the duty confided to them, and had nominated for officers, gentlemen who were well known in the community as taking a deep interest in the cause of Horticulture, and who would attend the meetings of the Association, viz.:

President, B. C. Townsend, Bay Ridge, L. I. 1*st Vice President*, Dr. Isaac M. Ward, Newark, N. J. 2*d Vice President*, J. W. Barrow, New York. *Corresponding Secretary*, James Hogg, New York. *Recording Secretary*, John W. Chambers, Brooklyn, L. I. *Treasurer*, Isaac Bachanan, New York. *Botanist*, Professor J. W. Thurber, New York. *Entomologist*, Doctor Isaac P. Trimble, Newark, N. J.

Committees.

1. *Large Fruits*, William S. Carpenter, P. T. Quinn, Isaac M. Ward.

2. *Small Fruits*, Peter B. Mead, R. G. Pardee, Francis Brill.

3. *Plants and Flowers*, John Henderson, William J. Davidson, William Fitzpatrick.

4. *Vegetables*, Peter Henderson, Alfred Bridgeman, William Cranstoun.

5. *Floral Designs, Ferneries, &c.*, Andrew Bridgeman, James Hogg, J. W. Wood.

6. *Executive and Premium Committee*, The Presidents, Treasurer, Chairman of Committees 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and the Committee on Horticulture of the Institute.

The Officers and Committees were unanimously elected.

P. B. Mead presented to the Association, on behalf of Mrs. Barrow, the first bouquet; and after complimenting the lady for the taste displayed in the selection and arrangement of the flowers, took occasion to utter a protest against the usual mode of smothering flowers in paper, which he termed the strait jacket system, in which the symmetry of the leaf and flower is lost, and only an arrangement of colors preserved.

Mr. Barrow, one of the Vice-Presidents, followed. His remarks were mainly upon the financial prospects of the Society, and the importance of early making it independent as to the means required to accomplish its objects. He alluded to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which now had funds amounting to more than $100,000. The Philadelphia Society had also been successful, as far as finances were concerned. [Mr. Barrow's remarks had such a marked bearing on the formation of Horticultural Societies, that we shall print them in full.—ED.]

R. G. Pardee spoke of the influence of Horticultural Societies in elevating the taste and exciting a generous rivalry among those who grow fruits and flowers. These associations are the means of combining and concentrating individual influence and effort, so that the whole may be brought to bear in the collection and diffusion of information. Every one who raises a flower, confers a benefit upon his neighbor. He had lately passed a magnificent conservatory, and the thought then occurred that its owner, instead of gratifying his own circle of intimate friends, might be the means of giving delight and instruction to immense numbers had he an organ like this Association, through which he might hold communication. He hoped this was the beginning of a new era.

Isaac P. Trimble said he had been hon-

ored by his appointment as Entomologist, but he must tell them at the outset that he was acquainted with the peculiarities of comparatively few of the 400,000 insects which are known to exist on our globe. In looking at the beautiful models of fruit which adorn these rooms, he did not see specimens of Plums, Apricots, or Nectarines. These fruits are gradually disappearing from this section of the country. No doubt many of you are aware of the cause. It is the effect of an insect called the curculio, of which it takes four to weigh a single grain, and we are cowardly letting it do as it pleases. He was asked by a gentleman what he should do to destroy the lady bug; his garden was full of them. He told him to let them alone until they had eaten all the plant lice, and then they would die of starvation. He had occasion lately to count the eggs of the Dusty Vapor Moth, and the average was four hundred, and this is nearly the average of all our moths and butterflies. Arithmetic will easily tell the story of how long we could live if any one of these was permitted to multiply without being checked. Among the insects, nearly half are feeding upon the other half; and we should have the knowledge to know which half are our friends. The birds are important aids in holding in check our insect enemies. Lately, in examining the crop of the Chick-a-dee, (Black-capped Titmouse,) one of the little creeper birds of winter, he found five of the larvæ of the apple moth, and the apple moth, next to the curculio, is the most fatal enemy of apples and pears. All animated nature is a cycle of complexity to those who do not study it, but there is a movable harmony in all things. If his friend could have killed all his lady bugs, he would soon have found his mistake. When the small birds have been shot off, noxious insects have increased fearfully.

Wm. S. Carpenter said he should fill but a small niche in this Society, but would do all in his power to make it valuable to the country. Pomology had been a subject to which he devoted many years; in fact, it was a specialty with him. The celebrated Van Mons, of Belgium, had done much for the cause of Pomology, especially in the improvement of the pear. Mr. Knight, of England, had devoted a lifetime to the improvement of small fruit, also to the apple and pear. Such enthusiasts deserve well of their fellow-men. There are a great many fine fruits which are unknown outside the orchard in which they grow. He had picked some apples from a tree 100 years old. He had propagated trees from it, the fruit of which he sent to England, where it was preferred to the Newtown Pippin. Improvements are being continually made in the quality of our fruits. Many varieties that stood high in favor 20 years ago, have given place to the improved varieties of the present day. These Societies are of incalculable benefit to the country, as a means of encouraging and disseminating information in relation to the various improvements made.

The Chairman, Mr. Ely, spoke of the influence of flowers. Their cultivation has a moral and refining effect upon our natures. He remembered in his young days those young ladies who cultivated flowers were more refined than others. Painting and the arts have a refining influence, but the flowers have a still higher, because they lead the mind upwards to the Creator. He spoke of his country home at Norwalk, where every house and garden is adorned with flowers and shrubs. He loved the country, and passed all the spare time he had there. He never knew a man or boy but was elevated in mind by the cultivation of flowers, and one that was always ready to do a kind action by his neighbor.

A. G. Burgess said he was early advised never to look for a wife in a family who did not cultivate flowers.

P. B. Mead. [We omit our own remarks, being much crowded.—Ed.]

Mr. Nash said it was very important that correct reports of the meetings should be published in the newspapers, and urged that a competent stenographer should be employed for the purpose. This associa-

tion, as I understand it, is for the purpose of bringing forward practical Horticulturists. The remarks of such persons will be of great value, as they will be the results of experience, and not mere theories.

He said he was born and lived in the midst of an orchard of about 20 acres, and was educated in the midst of good fruit. Many of the trees would yield well for a time, but would soon become diseased. He suggested a Committee on Seeds be appointed, and recommended that an orchard should be set out where forest trees had been cut down.

Mrs. J. W. Barrow exhibited choice cut flowers.

Wm. S. Carpenter exhibited eleven varieties of apples from his own orchard, viz., Northern Spy, Newtown Pippin, Swaar, Pennock, R. I. Greening, Seek-no-further, Dominie, Baldwin, Hubbardston Nonsuch, Greenwich, Roxbury Russet.

Wm. A. Burgess, Rosevale, Roslyn, L. I., exhibited two varieties of his new seedling strawberries, viz., 4 pots of "Garibaldi," and 1 of "General Grant." The plants were in fine condition, and covered with clusters of ripe fruit.

Adolphus G. Burgess, East New York, exhibited two new varieties of variegated leaved plants, viz., Ageratum splendens, and Salvia elegans. Mr. Burgess said he was willing to offer a premium of $15 for the best seedling Rose to be exhibited during the year 1864.

Wm. S. Carpenter moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet on the 1st Monday in May. Carried.

On motion, it was Resolved, that "Flowers" be the subject for discussion at the next meeting. Carried.

Mr. John Henderson was appointed to open the discussion.

On motion, it was Resolved, that the Ladies and others be invited to send written communications. Adjourned.

JOHN W. CHAMBERS, Rec. Sec.

FULLER'S GRAPE CULTURIST.—We are indebted to the author for a copy of this work very neatly bound. We have read it with no little interest. The system adopted by Mr. Fuller is that of horizontal arms, with which our readers are by this time pretty familiar. The directions are briefly and plainly given, and finely illustrated. The concluding chapters are the least valuable portion of the book. Mr. Fuller's criticisms are by no means felicitous, being wanting in discrimination, one of the first elements of sound criticism. Some of the systems condemned by Mr. Fuller have for many years been practiced in this country by different individuals, and are not without their merits, though no particular favorites with us. Mr. Knox will no doubt be surprised to see the system that he has adopted, condemned in unmeasured terms. Mr. Fuller's weakness is a morbid desire to "hit somebody." It makes him unamiable and unjust when he, perhaps, does not mean to be so. The recoil of the blow is often more damaging to himself than to the party aimed at. He might, for example, have spared Guyot, whom he evidently does not comprehend. Notwithstanding these faults, and some anachronisms and historical errors, the book is a useful one, and may be read with profit. Mr. Fuller, we believe, is his own publisher.

WORCESTER COUNTY (MASS.) HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—We are glad to know that our friends in Worcester have learned that a Horticultural Society has other duties to perform besides holding shows. At a recent meeting, after a pretty full discussion, the following lists of fruit were adopted as being the best for that particular locality. The list will be useful to others living there who were not present. It is proposed to add other kinds of fruit at future meetings. Some very interesting remarks in the *Transcript* we will try to make room for hereafter, with thanks to the friend who was so kind as to send them.

APPLES.

Early.—Red Astrachan, Sweet Boug

Duchess of Oldenburg, Williams, *Worcester Spy, *Summer Pippin.

Autumn.—Gravenstein, Porter, *Shepard's Sweeting, *Leland's Spice, *Fameuse, Hubbardston Nonesuch.

Winter and Spring.—Mother, R. I. Greening, †Yellow Belleflower, †Jewett's Red, Baldwin, *Washington Royal, *Ladies' Sweeting, *Northern Spy, Talman Sweeting, Roxbury Russet.

PEARS.

Early.—Beurré Giffard, Rostiezer, Dearborn's Seedling, Bartlett, St. Ghislain.

Autumn.—Belle Lucrative, Paradise d' Automne, Flemish Beauty, Marie Louise, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Seckel, Fulton, Henry IV., Sheldon.

CHERRIES.

May Duke, Knight's Early Black, Black Tartarean, Black Eagle, Downer's Late, American Amber.

GRAPES.

Hartford Prolific, Diana, Concord, Delaware.

STRAWBERRIES.

Hovey's Seedling, Jenny's Seedling, Jenny Lind, Wilson's Albany.

SANITARY FAIRS.—We have received circulars announcing the holding of Sanitary Fairs in various parts of the country, from which it may be concluded that the sympathies of our people are fully aroused for our suffering brave ones. The *St. Louis Fair* will embrace a large portion of the Valley of the Mississippi. In the month of June the *Philadelphia Sanitary Fair* will be held, for which preparations are being made on an extensive scale. On the first of June the *Pittsburgh (Pa.) Sanitary Fair* will be held. In Baltimore one is now in progress, and in other parts of the country preparations are being made for still more. We appeal to Horticulturists to send to these fairs liberally of their stores. The fact of your having given something to this noble cause, will be talked of proudly by your children long after you are dead. At the time of writing, the receipts of the New York Fair have reached nearly *one million* of dollars. There is no doubt that it will exceed that sum at the close. We look for correspondingly great results in Pennsylvania and the Mississippi valley, and wherever such fairs are hereafter held.

Correspondence.

FRIEND MEAD,—Permit me to occupy a little space in the Horticulturist with a few queries, answers to which may interest more than a few of your readers. I have a young orchard so infested with the apple-tree bores, as to cause me to replace about half the trees within the last six years, notwithstanding my efforts to destroy the pests with my knife. I have taken a dozen from one tree four inches in diameter at the base, which leaves it badly scarified, though the worms were yet small. Last spring I applied a few forkfuls of unfermented hog manure to each tree, piling it around the trunk, but without any apparent benefit. Now I would ask, whether a piece of strong brown paper, immersed in whale oil or kerosene, and bound loosely around the tree with woolen yarn or some such elastic bandage, and the earth drawn up to secure the lower edge of it, would be likely to injure the tree, or to keep off the insect. 2d. By pinching, scalding, drowning, and burying the rose-bugs until the grapes on my vines were about the size of small shot, I managed to save them last year, but to be disappointed of the pleasure of eating ripe grapes, Isabellas at least. My Concords ripened well. My vines have a warm exposure, and a grav-

* Varieties recommended as "promising well."

† Varieties recommended for "amateur cultivation."

elly loam soil, are tolerably well cultivated, but will not ripen their fruit. I notice that mulching is much recommended, which, during the dry, hot season, seems to me a judicious practice; but would it not facilitate the ripening to remove the mulch when the weather becomes cool, and, instead, give a light top-dressing of charcoal dust, peat, or some dark colored substance, to intensify the solar heat?

Another of my failures has been with asparagus; and as I esteem it one of the luxuries of the well-supplied board, I would be pleased to learn how it can be successfully grown, the kind of soil best adapted to it, the depth the roots should be planted, &c., Very respectfully, S. H.

Plattekill, 4th Month, 1864.

[Your plan of cutting out the borer is a good one, but must be perseveringly done, and the borer looked after twice a year at least. A *preventive* would be not only a blessing, but better than a *cure*. The common soap-fat of the kitchen, smeared around the trunk of the tree at its junction with the ground, and for a foot above it, will be found a pretty good preventive; notwithstanding, the borer will sometimes enter above the point that is greased; but then he is easily seen before much damage has been done. Give this a trial. We think the paper suggested, or a piece of rag, bound round the tree, would prevent the borer from entering at the usual place, but we are inclined to believe they will enter above it sometimes; but there is this advantage in having them enter high, that they are more readily seen. We have no doubt that you will be benefited by using either the grease or the paper, and the tree will not be injured in either case. In regard to the rose bug, we are of opinion that the only way to abate this nuisance is to form "Bug Societies" for their destruction. A whole neighborhood must unite, and wage a war of extermination against them. Employ boys and girls to kill them, and pay them so much a quart for the dead bodies. In this way they can be got rid of, and in no other, so far as we know. Your soil is good for grapes; but the Isabella and other grapes have ripened their wood imperfectly, and the fruit, consequently, has not ripened. In such cases, extra care is needed in thinning out the branches, pinching in, &c.; but even these will not avail where the vines are much affected with mildew. Mulching has its disadvantages as well as advantages. If you keep your soil loose on the surface, mulching is not needed. The top dressing you suggest would be a decided advantage. We can hardly give you full particulars here for growing Asparagus, but may say in a general way, that the best soil is a sandy loam, worked a couple of feet deep, and well enriched with old manure. The roots should be planted about three inches deep; that is, the crown should be three inches beneath the surface. The ground should be kept perfectly clean, and loose on the surface. A spade should never be used on an asparagus bed, but the surface simply forked over without injuring the crown of the plants; neither should it be trampled on in cutting the "grass," as it is called. We will try to have an article on the subject before long. By-the-by, we may as well state here, that Dr. Bertolet will respond to a former article of yours as soon as his engagements with our sick soldiers will permit him to do so. You can well excuse him while he is engaged in such a humane cause.—Ed.]

Editor Horticulturist,—There are few articles in your interesting number for January, that the reader will peruse with more profit, or dwell upon with kindlier feelings of interest, than the manly and ingenuous one on the grape, emanating from the pen of Dr. Schrœder, of Bloomington. I but echo the desire of many of your readers, and the wish of thousands all over the northwest, who, for profit or pleasure, are embarking in the cultivation of the grape, when I express the hope that others will, like the Doctor, when they give us their views and experience on this subject,

"dip their pens in their own hearts," and not like many, whose writings, obscure and speculative, go in for their reputation as scholars, rather than that of pomologists. Some Secretary of a little one-horse town Horticultural Society, who has grape vines of his own to sell, of such "approved sorts" as "King," "Perkins," "Union Village," and "Isabella;" varieties whose day of usefulness has well-nigh gone by, will often, using the awful influence of his "official position," decry, through the columns of the local paper, the merits of all other vines, and in his efforts at detraction frequently descend to abuse whoever presumes to place them in the rank of their merit. In happy contrast with all this is the unselfish communication of the Doctor; nor would I now trouble you with this one, but for the grave error into which I think the Doctor has easily and naturally fallen in relation to the fruitfulness of the Delaware. Since Mr. Campbell's first introduction of this grape to the public, its popularity has been so great, that the "peddlers" have resorted to all "stratagems" to supply the demand; cuttings from green wood, rootlets from immature layers, and feeble little slips from hot-house pots, have been eagerly purchased by many at extravagant rates; and when, after a feeble life of a few years, the vine either perfected some straggling bunches of thin filled fruit, or utterly refused to bear, their disappointment has been so great, that their faith in its merits has given way to admiration of some kind which has, like the Concord, fulfilled, to a certain extent, their expectations. That Doctor Schrœder is one of those victimized in this way, is evident from his letter. Responsible and respectable men, engaged in propagating the Delaware, owe it to themselves, and to the "cause," to discourage this manner of disseminating this fine variety, which I place *at the head of all the out-door grown grapes in North America.* Experience has taught me, with reference to this sort, to do my own propagating. My five-year old vines averaged this summer forty pounds of perfectly matured and ripened grapes, and while my Concords sold for 12½ cents per pound, the Delawares brought me 50 cents per pound. This past summer I have tramped around much, and seen well-nigh all the new varieties of grape. The Adriondac is, in my opinion, only a fair grape, inferior to both the Diana and Rebecca, and would never have taken the premium at Cleveland over the Catawba had not the committee, from long familiarity with the last, rather underrated its excellence in favor of the untried new comer. There are many of the older varieties superior to the Adirondac; but as comparisons are odious, and I have no interests to subserve, never having sold a vine in my life, though yearly giving away many, and only anxious to see justice done to all, will not push them further, but close, with a cordial invitation to you, Mr. Editor, to give me a call when you pass this way next summer. I want you to see my hybridized seedlings; they will interest you; though, in point of quality, they are inferior, yet some of them seem to improve a little with age, and I am not without hopes that one or two may yet prove worthy of a name.

Respectfully yours, JAS. T. DURANT.
Chicago, January, 1864.

[The Doctor is a hearty, enthusiastic man, and speaks without circumlocution. We hope he will be more fortunate with the Delaware this time. The judges at Cleveland stated that they gave the premium to the Adirondac because Catawbas were not ripe, and not because they thought the Adirondac the best flavored grape. We shall esteem it a great pleasure to call upon you when we go west.—ED.

EDITOR HORTICULTURIST,—As relating to your article on "Growing Plants in Rooms," I wish to say that, four years ago, I inclosed a piazza, facing the south, in front of the sitting-room, making a room for plants fourteen feet long and three feet wide. The two features in the construc-

tion of this, which add, I think, very greatly to its success, (and it *has* proved a *perfect* success,) are, 1*st*, thick sashes, which have two frames of glass throughout, on the inside and on the outside of the sashes, allowing three quarters of an inch between the panes, answering the purpose of a double sash; 2*d*, a double floor, filled in between with six inches of dried sawdust. These sashes are suspended by weights, which allows, of course, any ventilation desired, while the windows, two of them, letting into the sitting-room, make it a very easy matter to let in all the heat which may be wanted.

It often surprises me, but there are very few days during winter that I have to let in heat from the sitting room during the day. At night I usually open the sitting-room windows, or the top of one and the bottom of the other, and this is all the trouble I have in keeping the plants properly cared for, as far as heat is concerned, except such terrible weather as we had January 1st, 1864, and the like, when I moved the plants into the sitting-room.

The floor of this little place is covered with oil-cloth carpet, and the plants are showered without trouble. Camellias, Pelargoniums, &c., flourish with me, and I would not be without it. So you see I endorse all you say about "inclosing a Bay Window."

I am yours very truly, J. W.

Detroit, Mich., April, 1864.

[We are happy to hear of your success, for it will encourage others to put their piazzas to a similar use, and give them something almost as good as a green-house. The sashes could be so arranged as to be taken out in summer, if thought desirable, and thus make the piazza a pleasant place of resort during the whole year. A hot-air register might be made to open on the piazza, or a small air-tight wood stove used in very cold weather. The air could be kept moist by placing the plants on tables filled in with two or three inches of clean sand, the latter to be kept wet. The plan is worth thinking of.—Ed.]

121 Waverly Place, N. Y., Feb., 1864.

To the Editor of the Horticulturist:

Dear Sir,—A few days since I had occasion to visit the propagating establishment of J. F. Deliot & Co., near Sing Sing. My attention was attracted to the peculiar structure of the material furnished from a bog-swamp, with which (in connection with sand) they so successfully produce their vines, giving them a vigorous and well-matured wood, and unequaled fibrous and well-ripened roots. The deposit appears to be almost wholly decomposed, or rather *decayed*, woody material, reduced by a new process to the condition of *humus*, or what might perhaps be very properly designated as *vegetable earth*, still retaining even the form and trace of the original growth of timber, which seems to have been of large size.

This material, although exhibiting evidence of comparatively recent formation, seems exactly adapted to their use, by simply shoveling it into piles, and allowing it thus to remain from summer or early autumn, until wanted the next season, without any other preparation or admixture except sand, and thus is unlike any other muck or peat soil that I have met with. An analysis might develop valuable facts.

Mr. Deliot also called my attention to some specimens of wine, produced from the native grape of this country, and invited me to taste and compare them with him for the purpose of making up an opinion in relation to their relative merits, and report the same by request of the donors, and which we propose now to do through your journal.

Mr. Deliot is undoubtedly a very close taster and good judge of the produce of the vine in all of its various stages, from the fruit to the condition of well-ripened wine, having been educated to the business of vine-dressing and wine-making in France, and for the past seven years exclusively devoting his energies and attention to the subject in this country. It is therefore his judgment, rather than my own, that I desire to present, although

fully concurring with him as far as my limited acquaintance with the subject enabled me to judge.

First Sample.—Concord, pure juice, produced by Geo. Husman, Herman, Mo., 1863. Color, light red; flavor, slightly foxy, with but slight point, character, or body; in short, flattish, with an acid trace after drinking.

The grapes from which it was produced said not to be fully ripe, or not quite equal to their best specimens produced.

Second Sample.—Norton's Virginia, pure juice, by Geo. Husman, Herman, Mo., 1863. Color, deep claret, slightly more brilliant and deep, and coloring the cork like claret, but without sediment.

Taste, a distinct, lively vinous, with not a disagreeable though marked acid taste left on the tongue, approaching that of claret, but ranking considerably above the generality of that class, certainly that with which we compared. Its promise is a red wine of a high order.

Third Sample.—Catawba, from J. Hart, Nyack, New York. This sample was the product of 1862, and so highly sugared, that to a cultivated wine taste it was offensively sweet; yet it possessed the brightness of the Catawba, with its peculiar flavor highly developed; color amber.

Fourth Sample.—Delaware, by J. F. Deliot, 1862; *pure juice*, but from rather imperfect grapes, and must be regarded as only a very ordinary sample; color, light amber; taste, a bright, yet soft and agreeable vinous, passing from the tongue with a peculiar and agreeable flavor, leaving no trace of undigested acid, and evincing much body and character.

In conclusion, we placed Delaware as No. 1 *White Wine;* Norton's Virginia as No. 1 *Red Wine*, over any samples yet met with.

Concord we regard as deficient in every essential constituting a first-class wine. Compared with wine made from the native wild summer grape, (of which we had a sample,) its general characteristics were strikingly similar, (except color, which was darker,) and in quality excelling the wild to some extent.

I submit the above in the hope that it may elicit further investigations and comparison of the wine qualities of the American grape. R. H. Williams.

[We may say, in regard to the muck used by Mr. Deliot, that he gives it all the preparation that is usually called for. Muck sometimes contains salts that require special treatment; but we may say, briefly, after a pretty extensive use of it, that drying and aerating it generally fits it for the purposes of the horticulturist. We mean, of course, where it is not full of wiry roots. Your verdict on the wines is proper enough. In good time we think our Missouri friends will place the Concord very far below the Norton as a wine grape, if some of them do not already do so. We can not conceive how a *good* wine can be made from the Concord, and shall be agreeably disappointed if it is ever done. We shall not be backward to acknowledge the fact, however, when the evidence is presented. —Ed.]

Philadelphia, Feb. 29, 1864.

Mr. Editor—Can you inform me, through your "Editor's Table," of any thing that will destroy "Rose-bugs" except mechanically killing or drowning them? and do you know their origin? when the eggs are laid, and what way they can be reached before appearing on grape vines and apple trees in the perfect state? At Mount Holly, N. J., I find them a great nuisance, and, in fact, it is difficult in the neighborhood to get a crop of grapes.

Respectfully yours, Wm. Proctor, Jr.

[We know of no certain way of killing them, except killing them *dead*. We can stupefy them, but they have more lives than a cat, and always come to. They undergo their transformation in the ground, and many may be destroyed by late fall plowing. Raise a fund, and employ children to kill them. If a neighborhood should unite in this way, the evil would soon be abated.—Ed.]